However, NAFED did not import fresh fruits and vegetables during the above period in its own account.

(b) Profit and loss position of NAFED's exports is as under:—

(Gross Profit (+) Loss (—)

(*Rs. in Lakhs*)

Year	*Fruits*	*Vegetables*
1989-90	0.43(—)	62.57 (+)
1990-91	1.38(+)	346.96 (+) (Prov.)

(c) Since NAFED did not import fruits and vegetables, there was no need to appoint commission agents for the purpose.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Telephone Fault Complaints in Marathwada Area

589. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone fault rate per 100 stations per man in Marathwada area particularly in Porvani, Aurangabad, Manmad and Nanded districts of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of telephone complaints received during the last six months in the above districts: and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the number of complaints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) The telephone fault rate per 100 stations per month is as follows:

1. Marathwada area	15.55
2. Parbhani Exchange	7.82
3. Aurangabad Exchange	17.61
4. Nanded Exchange	30.44
5. Manmad Exchange	9.03

(b) Total number of compliants received on 198 during the last six months are as follows :

1. Marathwada area	41,082
2. Parbhani Exchange	1,646
3. Aurangabad Exchange	10,222
4. Nanded Exchange	11,659
5. Manmad . .	548

(c) Steps taken to reduce the number of complaints are as follows:

1. Rehabilitation of external plant.
2. Replacing open wires lines by cables.
3. Replacing fault prone telephones instruments.

Private participation in Steel Sector

590. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow private participation in steel sector upto 1 million tonne capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the production of steel in the country is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been considered necessary to allow creation of additional capacity in the private sector in order to meet the projected demand-supply gap. Applications from interested parties have been received and are being examined.